

Insignificant things

A Christmas lesson for teenagers



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Insignificant things

A Christmas lesson for teenagers

This includes a lesson text for the teacher, worksheet for the teens and a powerpoint presentation for the lesson. All of these can be downloaded free of charge from www.teachkids.eu



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Goals - we want the teens to:



understand that God has the power to use those who seem insignificant in the eyes of the world;



accept that without God they can do nothing, and they should desire to have His power in their lives;



allow themselves to be used by God to take the Gospel – even around Christmas time – and to tell at least one unsaved person the

Good News of salvation.

Introduction: Michelangelo

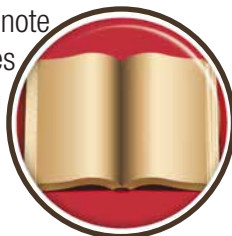
Someone asked Michelangelo why he spent so much of his time painting the trifles (small things). Michelangelo replied, “Trifles makes perfection and perfection is no trifle.”

When God brought the greatest news to earth, He used a series of insignificant events, things and places. He even used insignificant people.

In the events around the birth of the Lord Jesus, as told in the gospel of Luke, we do not meet with many significant people or things, except for the choir of angels.

Method: research

[Divide the teens into groups of 4 – 5. Ask each group to read Luke 2:12 – 20 and note down the insignificant things, places and people from the text. Research should then be shared with the whole group.]



Method: worksheet

[Photocopy the worksheet for every teen in the group. Encourage the teens to fill in the worksheet while you teach.]

1. God uses insignificant people



There were many important people during this time in Palestine. The royal family and other leaders, known wise people and spiritual leaders – all having great influence at the time – but the angels did not go to them with the news of the birth of the Saviour.

The angels went to insignificant people of the time. You have already found them in the text. Who were they? (Allow them to answer.) Some shepherds! Shepherds were not rich people like some sheep farmers are today. They were not influential people. Sometimes they were the youngest son in the family, or poor people hired to take care of the sheep of wealthy people. They did not have special training or special abilities to pass on the Good News of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” (Luke 2:15)

They left their sheep in the field and they went to see the Christ, the One who had just been born. This story is over 2,000 years old! Maybe it was insignificant for Bethlehem then, but now it is significant for the whole world!



Insignificant things

Mary – the one chosen by God to give birth to the Saviour – she was an average girl – not a queen, not even a princess.

The one who would be the earthly father of the Lord Jesus, Joseph – was not a king or a man of influence, he was a simple carpenter.

“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are.” (1 Corinthians 1:26 – 28)

It is so encouraging to see that God uses insignificant people to accomplish great things.

Method: activity

[Use this method only if there is time.]

Divide the teens into two groups (e.g. girls and boys) and give them one minute to write the names of insignificant people in the Bible who did great things. A spokesperson for each team will name each person and say what they did. The team that has the most people who fit into this category wins the competition (give the winners a prize – it is Christmas after all!).

Examples:

- David, when he was an insignificant shepherd, he killed Goliath;
- Gideon and his army of 300 conquered the Midianites;
- Moses, a child who should have lost his life, led the people of Israel from Egypt to Canaan;

- The servant girl who told Naaman about Elisha and he was healed as a result;
 - The little boy who gave his lunch to Jesus who then miraculously fed over 5,000 people;
 - Mary Magdalene who was possessed by 7 demons, was the first to see Jesus alive and took the news to the disciples;
 - Onesimus, a servant who ran away from his master, carried the Epistle of Philemon written by the Apostle Paul.
- etc

God can use you when you entrust your life into His hand. If you are already His child, God can use you. Maybe this year, you will share the true meaning of Christmas with one other person who does not know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

Method: word search – insignificant people



WORD SEARCH

NAMES

Find the names of insignificant people in the Bible in the word search.

Names: Moses, David, Mary, Servant, Onesimus

A	D	B	O	S	E	R	V	T
F	A	D	N	E	P	A	S	S
K	V	G	E	H	H	T	F	E
L	I	J	S	I	J	N	S	R
D	D	O	I	A	Y	A	E	V
A	M	R	M	L	R	V	R	Y
V	V	W	U	A	A	R	V	U
I	S	E	S	O	M	E	A	P
F	X	G	M	H	J	S	A	L
D	R	A	M	C	R	A	M	P



2. God uses insignificant places

(Suggestion: It would be good to have a map with the places marked on it.)



The Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem, an insignificant village in the eyes of people at that time, but with special importance in the eyes of God.

*“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands
of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting.” (Micah 5:2)*

God sent His only Son to be born in this insignificant, sinful world, into an insignificant family, in an insignificant place to bring salvation through His death and resurrection. Today, wherever you are, you can put your trust in Him. He did everything for you. He is the true meaning of Christmas. It is a salvation celebration.

We celebrate the birth of the One who said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life”. Only by having faith in Him can you rejoice in the life that He gives because He came into our world.

In your family, in your classroom, with your friends or in your neighbourhood . . . regardless of how insignificant these places seem, He is with you. Do you want to be used by Him right where you are, in any situation and with any person? Let yourself be used by Him!

God has a great plan and He uses insignificant things and situations to fulfil His plan.

3. God uses insignificant things

A manger is not a bed for a baby! It was the place where animals took their food when they were in a stable. It was a really inappropriate place to put a new born – even more so since it was the Son of God. This is where the Saviour was born. He, the King of kings humbled Himself and was born in a very poor place, so that we could have eternal riches. He could have been born in a palace, a hospital or a beautiful home, but God chose an insignificant place for His Son to come into this world.



“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a

manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7)

God used something of little importance for His Son to start His life in this world. What are some of the things that you have, that could be used by God? Maybe you have a bike, that you could use to go shopping for an elderly or sick neighbor, or maybe you have a computer that you could use to send an email to a discouraged friend etc. Allow God to use the insignificant things that you have to fulfil His plans.

Method: names in numbers

You can write names with numbers using a mobile phone (eg. 2539 ALEX). The teens need to guess. Then ask them to write the numbers of teens at the group. Don't forget to get them to write their own names on the worksheet.



Conclusion

Maybe you think you are an insignificant person in the eyes of the world, but you are not insignificant to God! Let God use you and fulfil His great plan in your life! In His strength, He enables us to do great things for His glory. This Christmas, let God lead you to those people who do not know Him. Tell them about the great news of the birth of the Saviour!



Insignificant things



Read Luke 2:12 – 20

Write down the insignificant things, places and people from the text:

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____
7. _____ 8. _____

1. God uses insignificant people

Write the names of insignificant people in the Bible who did great things:



1. _____ 5. _____
2. _____ 6. _____
3. _____ 7. _____
4. _____ 8. _____

Wordsearch – insignificant people

Find the names of insignificant people in the Bible in the word search.

A	D	B	O	S	E	R	V	T	T
F	A	D	N	E	P	A	S	S	Y
K	V	G	E	H	H	T	F	E	U
L	I	J	S	I	J	N	S	R	I
D	D	O	I	A	Y	A	E	V	O
A	M	R	M	L	R	V	R	Y	Y
V	V	W	U	A	A	R	V	U	U
I	S	E	S	O	M	E	A	P	P
F	X	G	M	H	J	S	A	L	L
D	R	A	M	C	R	A	M	P	P

2. God uses insignificant places



Where could God use you?

3. God uses insignificant things



What things do you have that God could use?

Who can God use?



Write your name below by using the numbers on a mobile phone.

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Address: